

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6153**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 282

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 31, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Licenses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Delph

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
X FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes a reduced fee lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping license for disabled veterans who are Indiana residents.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Summary:* The bill provides that a qualified veteran may obtain a lifetime basic license to hunt, fish, and trap by paying a reduced license fee of \$20. (The DNR reported that with the exception of senior fish-for-life licenses, lifetime licensing was discontinued July 1, 2005.) Any reduction in state revenue that would occur as a result of the lifetime hunting/fishing/trapping proposal will depend on the number and ages of qualifying veterans who apply to purchase the lifetime license compared with the number and type of licenses, if any, that the qualified veteran would have otherwise purchased. If all qualified resident disabled veterans that currently purchase hunting, fishing, or hunting/fishing licenses purchased the lifetime license for \$20, the Fish and Wildlife fund could potentially see a one-time peak in revenue of approximately \$119,130 with an annual reduction in revenue of approximately \$19,000, thereafter. Additionally, the DNR could lose associated federal sport fish/wildlife funding if the \$20 lifetime license fee does not meet the minimum definition for the funding allocation formula.

**Background:** Currently, a resident veteran with a service-connected disability may purchase an annual fishing license for \$2.75; an annual small game hunting license for \$2.75; a combination hunting and fishing license

for \$2.75; and an annual undiscounted license to trap for \$17. Additionally, qualified veterans may purchase for \$27.50, a ten-year license to hunt, fish, or hunt/fish. (Current undiscounted license fees are the following: annual fishing license for \$17.00; an annual small game hunting license for \$17.00; a combination hunting and fishing license for \$25.00; and an annual license to trap for \$17.) Discounted license fees are for basic licenses. Game bird, waterfowl, deer, turkey, trout, and salmon stamps must be purchased separately at the regular price. Additionally, senior fish-for-life licenses are available to anyone over age 65 for \$17.00. DNR reported the following numbers of discounted basic licenses sold to qualifying resident veterans.

<b>DAV Discounted Hunting/ Fishing Licenses Sold</b>			
<b>Basic License</b>	<b>2010 Season*</b>	<b>2011 Season*</b>	<b>2012 Season*</b>
Resident DAV Fishing @ \$2.75	1,230	1,369	1,547
Resident DAV Hunting @ \$2.75	199	181	264
Resident DAV (Combo) @ \$2.75	4,860	5,104	5,095
10-Year Resident DAV Fishing @ \$27.50			17
10-Year Resident DAV Hunting @ \$27.50			9
10-Year Resident DAV (Combo) @ \$27.50			202
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>6,654</b>	<b>7,134</b>
*Licenses are valid for a season of April 1 through March 31 of the following calendar year. (This information does not include revenues associated with trapping license sales. Trapping is an activity for which there currently is no DAV discounted license. DNR has no data to indicate the number of qualified veterans that purchase trapping licenses.)			

Any reduction in state revenue that would occur as a result of the lifetime hunting/fishing /trapping proposal will depend on the number and ages of qualifying veterans who apply to purchase the lifetime license compared with the number and type of licenses, if any, that the qualified veteran would have otherwise purchased. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) indicated that in 2012, there were approximately 58,000 Indiana veterans with a Veterans' Affairs disability rating.

If all qualified resident veterans that currently purchase hunting, fishing, or hunting/fishing licenses purchased the lifetime license for \$20, the Fish and Wildlife Fund could potentially see a one-time peak in revenue of approximately \$119,130.  $[(6,906 \times \$20) - (6,906 \times \$2.75)]$  Without any consideration of the impact of trapping fees, the purchase of a basic hunting and fishing license would break even for a qualified veteran after seven years. The bill does not include minimum age limits. Additionally, revenues would be reduced by the number of trapping licenses that may be currently purchased by qualified veterans who would purchase a lifetime license. (DNR has no data to indicate the number of disabled veterans that currently purchase trapping licenses.) DNR could potentially lose an indeterminate amount of revenue for lifetime licenses that would be used in excess of the seven-year breakeven point.

The DNR received \$23.61 for each certified hunter and \$9.13 per angler in FFY 2012 in sport fish/wildlife restoration monies. The rate changes annually depending upon the number of license holders and the amount

of tax collected on the sale of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, and fishing gear. In order to receive federal reimbursement for each license sold, the DNR must charge a fee that is commensurate with the normal cost for that privilege. Currently the disabled veteran's basic license fees are set at the lowest allowable amount (\$2.75) to qualify for federal sport fish/wildlife restoration funds. It is not known at this time if the \$20 fee for the lifetime license would qualify to be counted in the calculation for the sport fish/wildlife restoration money distribution. Lifetime licenses can qualify to be counted in the allocation formula based on an actuarial table; males may be counted up to age 75 and females up to age 80. (Currently, 66 disabled veterans 75 years and older hold fishing, hunting, or hunting/fishing licenses.)

Revenue from the sale of hunting licenses goes into the dedicated Fish and Wildlife Fund that is used to pay the operating expenses of the DNR Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** DVA; DNR.

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